DR. B. B. DUTTA: Sir, they are connected with the anti-malaria activity ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Basically, the question is relevant. He says that you are fully inchanrge of looking into it and the companies that are manufacturing anti-malaria drugs are running below their capacity because you are not giving them orders. That is the issue. ...(*interruptions*)... For this, no separate notice is required.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: If the hon. Member wants about supply, production, ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. He has put a very specific question which you are not answering. Is it a fact that you are not giving proper orders to the companies which the manufacturing anti-malaria drugs? Then, how can you use them when you do not have ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, we do not have inadequacy in our supply to the respective States. Therefore, I may tell you that the material supplied by the ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, how can they protect the people from malaria when ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please find it out and give an answer to him. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Sale of MBBS Degrees in Delhi

*285. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that MBBS degrees are being sold for Rs. 5,000 in Delhi, as reported in The Hindustan Times of 22nd September, 1998;

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government to check this racket;

(c) whether such rackets have been reported in other parts of the country also; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The newspaper report which appeared in the Hindustan Times in September, 1998 alleging that MBBS degrees are being sold in Delhi for Rs. 5000/- has come to the notice of the Government. However, in the absence of full details of persons or institutions selling such degrees it is difficult to initiate specific action. The Medical Council of India and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have also intimated that they have no specific information about these complaints. However, in order to eliminate such unfair practice the University Grants Commission, the Association of Indian Universities and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission keep a watch on the existence of fake universities functioning in contravention of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

(b) to (d) In order to curb this menace and prevent the establishment of Universities and institutions not covered by the relevant statutes a Task Force had been constituted in July, 1998 to examine the relevant provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 which need to be amended immediately and to provide proper safeguards against fake universities. According to the University Grants Commission the Task Force has *inter-alia* made the following sugestions relating to fake degrees and diplomas:

— Issue of code numbers to all Universities.

— This code number is to be displayed on all documentation with regard to the conduct of examinations, publication of results, issue of mark-sheets or any other document issued in this behalf.

— Universities to devise a foolproof system whereby any kind of document issued by the university is strictly in terms of the all India regulations laid down and the code number allocated.

— University Grants Commission to consider setting up an Expert Committee to work out details of such a system.

— The degree awarded by a university must carry a photograph of the person to whom the degree is being awarded.

The Task Force has also recommended that various options be considered for preventing advertisements of fake universities and or fake degrees being published in newspapers and journals. Apart from the above the matter relating to Amendment in the University Grants Commission Act for curbing the growth of fake universities as also to enhance the penalty for those who contravene the provisions of Section 22 and 23 of the University Grants Commission Act is under consideration of the Government.

Social Forestry projects in Orissa

*286. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some social forestry projects are being implemented in Orissa, with external aid;

(b) if so, what are those projects;

(c) the amount of external aid received for those projects, so far; and

(d) the details of work undertaken under those projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU: (a) and (b) A project titled 'Capacity Building for Participatory Management of Degraded Forests in Orissa' is presently under implementation with assistance from Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Sweeden since December, 1997. An amount of 13.5 million Swedish Kronor (approx. Rs. 5.88 crores) is being provided by SIDA as assistance under the project.

(c) State Government of Orissa has received Rs. 148.62 lakh as advance central assistance for the project.

(d) Training, consultancies and studies for Joint Forest management and continuance of Eco-restoration works are being undertaken under this project.

Dumping of Sugar by Foreign Countries

*287. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association has expressed concern over the large scale 'dumping of sugar' in the Indian markets particularly by Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of foreign countries which have dumped sugar in India;

(c) to what extent the Indian sugar industry has been affected due to dumping of sugar by foreign countries;

(d) whether the Government have since taken final decision to increase the import duty on sugar to save the indigenous sugar industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS- (SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) indian Sugar Mills